GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:265
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2004
SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR TOBACCO FARMERS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other tobacco producing States are committing suicide due to low support price of tobacco and other related reasons;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to announce special package for these farmers by giving higher support price, concessional agricultural inputs etc.

(d) if so, the details of the package;

(e) whether the tobacco growers are also demanding that traders may be allowed to purchase tobacco directly from them and auctioning system be abolished; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH)

(a)&(b): (i) Two tobacco growers in Andhra Pradesh are reported to have committed suicide. Available information suggests that the growers did not incur losses on tobacco cultivation. Reportedly, the growers cultivated other crops which might have caused them losses.

(ii) One tobacco grower in Karnataka is reported to have committed suicide due to personal reasons.

(c)&(d) The prices of Flue Cured Virgina tobacco on auction floors have been consistently above the Minimum Support Price during the last three years.

(e) No, Sir. No representation from growers or their associations demanding abolition of the Auction system has been received.

(f) Does not arise.